

JANE DEE HULL  
Governor



SHELDON R. JONES  
Director

# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

February 3, 2000

FDA  
FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
5630 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

(Docket No. 97N-0074)

USDA/FSIS  
USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk  
300 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Rm. 102 Cotton Annex  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

(Docket No. 98-045N)

The following comments relate to Docket Nos. 97N-0074 and 98-045N:

With regard to the President's Council on Food Safety's draft strategic plan, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) agrees that microbial contamination should be the main focus of any comprehensive food safety program. The ADA also favors efforts to maximize cooperation of existing agencies charged with ensuring a wholesome food supply at all levels of government. While research indicates fewer people eat at home, the ADA believes consumer education is critical for food safety efforts. Many food related illnesses continue to result from poor preparation practices at home.

Pesticides impact both the U.S. food supply and our environment. Any proposal to modify existing pesticide programs needs to consider the conflicts that could result if separate federal agencies became involved. One agency could find itself working from a food safety perspective, while another agency remains focused on environmental protection. Such a disconnect does not serve the public.

97N-0074

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Please contact Dr. Edwin Minch at (602) 542-0954 if you have any questions about ADA's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon R. Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon R. Jones  
Director

SRJ:JP:EM:jg

C: Governor Jane Dee Hull  
Senator John McCain  
Senator Jon Kyl  
Congressman Matt Salmon  
Congressman Ed Pastor  
Congressman Bob Stump  
Congressman John Shadegg  
Congressman Jim Kolbe  
Congressman J. D. Hayworth  
Jack Peterson, Associate Director  
Dr. Edwin Minch

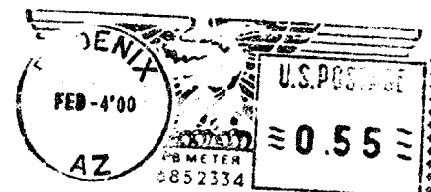


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*Arizona Department of Agriculture*

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